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HOUSE BILL 191
By Caldwell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 56 and Title 71, relative to a high-risk pool for uninsurables.

WHEREAS, The members of the general assembly of the state of Tennessee recognize the need for all Tennesseans to have access to healthcare and have enacted the TennCare program to provide healthcare insurance coverage to as many Tennesseans as possible.

WHEREAS, The needs of individuals who are considered uninsurables or as constituting a high-risk pool present challenges to the TennCare program and the health insurance industry; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the general assembly study issues relating to high-risk pools and the uninsurable population and make appropriate recommendations; now, therefore, BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. A special joint committee of the general assembly shall be named to study the problem concerning uninsurables under the TennCare plan and the various proposals to address the needs of uninsurables, including, but not limited to, proposals for various high-risk pools. The committee shall study the experience of the comprehensive health insurance pool as it existed before TennCare. The committee shall also study the recommendations of the commission on the future of TennCare as it relates to the uninsured and uninsurable population.

SECTION 2. The special joint committee shall consist of three (3) members of the House of Representatives and three (3) members of the Senate, to be appointed by the respective speakers.

SECTION 3. All appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the special joint committee upon request of the chair.

SECTION 4. All legislative members of the special joint committee, who are duly elected members of the general assembly, shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

SECTION 5. The special joint committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

SECTION 6. The special joint committee shall report its preliminary findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, to the general assembly no later than February 1, 2001, and submit its final report no later than February 1, 2002, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.